

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows (the changes are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlining for added matter). A complete listing of the claims is set out below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Original) A method for producing a thermoplastic resin composition containing ultrafine particles, the method comprising mixing a metal-containing organic compound with a thermoplastic resin; and then heating the resulting mixture at a temperature of at least the decomposition starting temperature and lower than the complete decomposition temperature of the metal-containing organic compound to produce a composition containing ultrafine metal particles and/or ultrafine metal oxide particles having a number-average particle size of 0.1 to 80 nm dispersed in the thermoplastic resin.

2. (Original) The method for producing the thermoplastic resin composition containing ultrafine particles according to claim 1, wherein the ultrafine metal particles and/or the ultrafine metal oxide particles having a number-average particle size of 0.1 to 80 nm dispersed in the thermoplastic resin is composed of a metal component or a metal oxide component, and an organic component is bonded to the surface of the particle.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for producing the thermoplastic resin composition containing ultrafine particles according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1, wherein the ultrafine particles having a number-average particle size of 0.1 to 80 nm dispersed in the thermoplastic resin are synthesized in the thermoplastic resin.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for producing the thermoplastic resin composition containing ultrafine particles according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the heating temperature is not lower than the decomposition starting temperature of the metal-containing organic compound, lower than the complete

decomposition temperature of the metal-containing organic compound, and higher than the melting point of the thermoplastic resin.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for producing the thermoplastic resin composition containing ultrafine particles according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the metal component is at least one element selected from Cu, Ag, Au, Zn, Cd, Ga, In, Si, Ge, Ti, Sn, Pd, Fe, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, Os, Ir, Pt, V, Cr, Mn, Y, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ca, Sr, Ba, Sb, and Bi.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for producing the thermoplastic resin composition containing ultrafine particles according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, further comprising exposing the resulting melted thermoplastic resin composition to a reduced pressure equal to or lower than atmospheric pressure after the metal-containing organic compound is heated at a temperature of not lower than the decomposition starting temperature of the metal-containing organic compound, lower than the complete decomposition temperature of the metal-containing organic compound, and higher than the melting point of the thermoplastic resin.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for producing the thermoplastic resin composition containing ultrafine particles according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, the method further comprising kneading the melted thermoplastic resin and the metal-containing organic compound to disperse ultrafine metal particles and/or ultrafine metal oxide particles in the thermoplastic resin, wherein the central portion of the particle is composed of a metal component or a metal oxide component, an organic component is bonded to the surface of the particle, and the particles dispersed have a number-average particle size of 1 to 60 nm.